



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

EIGHTEENTH SESSION

REPORT FROM THE IPPC SECRETARIAT

AGENDA ITEM 7

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

- [1] This paper focuses on activities carried out by the IPPC Secretariat in 2023. Activities carried out in 2022 are presented in the 2022 annual report¹ of the IPPC Secretariat.
- [2] **CPM and Subsidiary Bodies.** The IPPC Secretariat continued to support the IPPC governance. The seventeenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-17) took place in person on 27 – 31 March 2023 for the first time in three years and attracted more than 400 participants. The CPM-17 concluded its session with the adoption of four amendments to existing standards including ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*), Annex to ISPM 20 (*Use of specific import authorizations*), revision of ISPM 18 (*Requirements for the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure*), and draft annex to ISPM 28 Phytosanitary Treatments, Irradiation treatment for *Pseudococcus jackbeardsleyi*. CPM also noted the final report on the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 development agenda items and adopted the IPPC Communications Strategy 2023-2030. The CPM Bureau met four times during 2023, with the support of the IPPC Secretariat. The IPPC Secretariat also facilitated the twelfth session of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) that took place after the CPM bureau meeting in October 2023 in Rome, Italy. The Standards Committee (SC) and the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) returned to meeting in-person twice a year in May and in November.
- [3] **CPM Focus Groups.** In 2023, there were three CPM Focus Groups (FGs) and one steering group active with each focusing on the implementation of the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda items (DAIs). The FG on Communications concluded its work with the adoption of the Communications Strategy at CPM-17 (2023). The CPM Focus Groups on Sea Containers and the Safe Provision of Food and other Humanitarian Aid continued their work in line with their respective Terms of Reference (ToRs). A full update from both groups will be presented to CPM under agenda item 13. Two other CPM FGs were established in 2023 to work on specific DAIs (global phytosanitary research coordination and diagnostic laboratory networks) and their ToRs have been developed and will be presented to CPM-18 for adoption. A full update from these FGs will be presented to CPM-18 as separate papers under agenda item 12. The task force on topics (TFT) was also active to review and make recommendations from the 2023 call for topics for standards setting and implementation. These recommendations will be presented to CPM-18 under agenda item 16.5.

Standard setting.

- [4] The IPPC Secretariat continued to provide dedicated support to the SC work in 2023, including meeting in person at the FAO Headquarters in May and November 2023. The November meeting had a rich agenda including the recommendation to amend three ISPMs, which are ready for adoption at CPM-18. These include the Draft 2022 amendments to ISPM 5 (*Glossary of phytosanitary terms*) (1994-001), the Draft

annex Criteria for evaluation of available information for determining host status of fruit to fruit flies in ISPM 37 (*Determination of host status of fruit to fruit flies ((Tephritidae))*) (2018-011), and, the Draft revision of ISPM 4 (*Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*) (2009-002). The SC also approved, by e-decision, the Draft annex to ISPM 28 (Cold treatment for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on *Citrus sinensis*) (2017-029) for presentation to CPM-18 for adoption. These recommendations are being presented to CPM-18 under agenda item 10.

- [5] In 2023, the SC worked diligently on the adjustments of the revision of Standard Setting Procedure by thoroughly examining several proposed modifications to it, along with various sections within the IPPC Procedure Manual dedicated to standard setting. Notably, these modifications contained recommended adjustments put forth by SC-7 during their meeting in May 2023. These modifications will be presented to CPM-18 under agenda item 9.1.2.
- [6] The SC in 2023, on behalf of the CPM, also adopted the following Diagnostic Protocols (DPs) as annexes to ISPM 27 (Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests): DP 32: Genus *Ceratitis* and DP 33: *Mononychellus tanajoa*. The Technical Panel on Commodity Standards (TPCS) continued its work in 2023, submitting the Draft annex to ISPM 46 (*Commodity-based standards for phytosanitary measures*): International movement of *Mangifera indica* fruit (2021-011) for first consultation. The work of the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT), Technical Panel on Diagnostic Protocols (TPDP) and the Technical Panel for the Glossary (TPG) progressed throughout the year with both virtual and in person meetings. Moreover, the IPPC secretariat together with the IPPC technical panels undertook a SWOT analysis of their work, and the results will be presented to the SC for recommendations and follow ups.
- [7] Two expert working groups (EWGs) met to draft text on the revision of ISPM 26 (Establishment of pest free areas for fruit flies (*Tephritidae*)) (2021-010) and on the Annex field inspection (2021-018) to ISPM 23 (*Guidelines for inspection*). The Standard Setting Unit (SSU) of the IPPC Secretariat provided close support to the work of the SC and its working groups via eDecisions, opening call for experts, call for discussion papers, coordinating Language Review Groups, Consultation periods on draft ISPMs and Specifications and publishing the ISPMs adopted.

Implementation and Capacity Development (ICD).

- [8] The IPPC Secretariat provided close support to the work of the IC, its Subgroup and Teams. The IC met in person at the FAO Headquarters in May and November 2023. In May 20, the IC welcomed new members and discussed CPM-17 (2023) discussions, decisions, and key implementation issues affecting the 2023 IC workplan. In its November 2023 meeting, the IC discussed the implementation of the 2023 activities of the IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory and IC Teams and their respective workplans for 2024. Regular meetings of the subgroup and teams were held virtually. There are currently eleven IC Teams and one IC Subgroup¹ which were established to address specific implementation and capacity development issues and to support the work of the IPPC Secretariat.
- [9] The IC Subgroup on the IPPC Observatory monitored the progress of the IPPC Strategic Framework, preparation and implementation of the e-commerce survey, the IPPC third general survey, and the launch of the call for topics for the observatory. In addition, the Subgroup reviewed the results of the ongoing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveys. The intermediate results of the survey on the use of antibiotics for plant protection as well as the survey on the main fungicides used in plant protection is being presented to CPM-18. At this stage, the AMR surveys focus on collecting data on the antimicrobial products' use, with the goal to identify the regions of the world with high level usage of antimicrobials that could possibly induce or contribute to AMR.

¹ IC Subgroup and Teams: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/capacity-development-committee/ic-sub-group/>

- [10] The IC Team on National Reporting Obligations (NROs) continued to update the IPPC Official Contact Points (OCP) details on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).
- [11] The IC Team on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) monitored the completion of 11 PCEs in 2023, the drafting of PCE Terms and Conditions in full compliance with FAO rules, as well as the launch of a PCE Desk Study.
- [12] The IC Team on Fusarium TR4 membership was reinforced, and the team was reactivated. The IPPC Secretariat drafted a document proposing activities to coordinate the global action on TR4, in full compliance with the CPM-17 (2023) request. The IPPC Secretariat also developed a tabletop simulation exercise on Fusarium TR4 and delivered it during the African IPPC Regional Workshop.
- [13] The IC Team on IPPC Guides and training materials revised the process for developing IPPC guides and training materials and managed the List of Implementation and Capacity Development Topics (ICD-LOT) database. Under the overall oversight of the IC, four new guides were published:
- *Emergency preparedness – A guide for developing contingency plans for outbreaks of quarantine pests;*
 - *Prevention, preparedness and response guidelines for Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4) of banana;*
 - *Guide to regulation of wood packaging material – Understanding the phytosanitary requirements for the movement of wood packaging material in international trade;*
 - *E-commerce – A guide to managing the pest risk posed by goods ordered online and distributed through postal and courier pathways.*
- [14] The IC Team on the use of third-party entities and the IC Team on e-Commerce advanced the two related Development Agenda Implementation plans.
- [15] The IC Team responsible for reviewing and revising the guide on CPM good practices for participation has completed its task and generated the revised guide for CPM-18.
- [16] The IC Team on the revision of the *Guidelines for IPPC Regional Workshops*² revised the guidelines through a thorough consultation process and involvement of representatives from the various IPPC secretariat units.
- [17] The IC Team on contributed resources reviewed 13 technical documents such as already published fact sheets and guidelines, of which nine were posted on the IPP.
- [18] The IC Team on projects oversaw the organization of a webinar presenting various ICD projects across the globe, in May 2023.
- [19] The IC Team for Submission of Implementation Topics initiated the revision of the submission form for implementation materials as well as the submission form for the IPPC Observatory topics for studies and surveys.
- [20] In addition, the IPPC Secretariat coordinated the implementation of two key initiatives:
- The Development Agenda on “Harmonization of Electronic Data exchange” was advanced through the IPPC ePhyto Solution implementation. The IPPC ePhyto Solution is a global leader in the digitalization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) trades documents. As of December 2023, over five million ePhytos have been successfully exchanged through the Hub by 84 active user countries. The total number of registered countries increased from 115 at the end of 2022 to 130 at the end of 2023. Those implementation achievements are a successful example of collaboration between the IPPC

² Guidelines for IPPC Regional Workshops: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87113/>

Secretariat, NPPOs, RPPOs, international organizations and the industry to facilitate trade in a safe, secure and efficient manner.

- The Development Agenda on “Strengthening pest outbreak alert and response systems” was further advanced by setting the related Steering Group membership, as requested by CPM-16 (2022).

[21] **Communications and advocacy.** The IPPC Secretariat continued its efforts in the proactive engagement of the IPPC community through a number of channels, including the redesigning of the IPPC website, publishing monthly newsletters, seven feature stories, five blogs and five success stories. Also posted were 50 IPPC news items, 82 announcements, and a number of videos and social media content. This work was carried out in accordance with the IPP C Communication Strategy 2023-2030, adopted by CPM-17.

[22] **International Day of Plant Health.** The IPPC community observed the second International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) 12 May 2023. The IPPC Secretariat coordinated the IDPH high-level event at the FAO headquarters, attended by 100 participants in person and 400 virtually. Throughout April and May 2023, there were almost thirty thousand (30,000) engagements and 34 million reached with IDPH content. A dedicated website² is maintained in all 6 UN languages.

[23] **International cooperation.** The IPPC Secretariat maintained external cooperation with 47 international and regional organizations. Full details can be found in the paper "Update on international cooperation" presented under agenda item 21.2. CPM-17 adopted the IPPC Partnership Framework.

[24] **One Health.** The IPPC Secretariat has been actively involved in the FAO and other global organizations to advocate for plant health as integral to One Health. Through ISPMs, recommendations, and guides, the IPPC community is in a position to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests that could have negative impacts on human, animal, and environmental health. Additional details can be found under agenda item 21.2.

[25] **IPPC Networks.** Seven IPPC Regional Workshops were organized in 2023 to analyse and prepare comments online for draft ISPMs; build phytosanitary capacity and raise awareness on various activities of the IPPC Community; and provide a forum to exchange experiences and ideas at the regional level. The outcome of the workshops was harmonized comments on draft ISPMs and CPM recommendations and shared information on topics of interest and other phytosanitary issues related to each region. The 35th meeting of the Technical Consultation among RPPOs (TC-RPPOs) took place in Bogota, Colombia in October 2023 to discuss issues of common interest including to promoting the development and use of relevant international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs); and encouraging inter-regional cooperation. The meeting resulted in approval of two templates: one for collection of information on events of possible interest to other RPPOs and the second on pests of concern in the region. Also, the 35th TC-RPPO affirmed their role in supporting implementation of the IPPC strategic framework 2020-2030 development agenda items (DAIs).

[26] **Resource mobilization.** In 2023, USA/NAPPO, Republic of Korea, Canada, COLEAD, New Zealand, and United Kingdom contributed a total of USD 703,000 to the IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). Four IPPC projects were implemented: two by the European Union (EU), one by USA and one by China (cumulative project amount for 2023 was USD 945,000). The IPPC Secretariat implemented the phytosanitary components of other FAO projects, such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) trade facilitation programme and project on Strengthening food control and phytosanitary capacities and governance. IPPC Secretariat received more than USD 1,000,000 of in-kind (non-financial contributions) primarily from Australia, United States of America, Canada, Japan, France and many other Contracting parties that helped facilitate IPPC meetings, regional workshops and other efforts.

[27] **African Phytosanitary Programme (APP).** The APP is an initiative with the overall goal to safeguard plant resources against pests and to facilitate the safe trade of agricultural products, hence contributing to sustainable food security and economic growth. The ongoing pilot phase involves 11 countries with the plan for the rest of the countries in Africa to join over the next four years. A hands-on training was provided to 100 plant health experts from 11 African countries at the Train-the-Trainer Workshop held in September 2023 in Cairo, Egypt. A full update on APP to CPM-18 is provided in agenda item 16.3.

[28] **Internal management.** In 2023, the IPPC Secretariat continued its weekly leadership meeting with unit leads and their deputies as well as weekly staff meetings to replace what was formerly mid-year and annual meetings. Several staff members joined the IPPC Secretariat in 2023, including the addition of four new administrative staff and a number of professional staff members recruited to help close gaps created by the turnover. The Secretariat continued to embrace the organizational values that are conducive of open and transparent work environment, based on mutual respect and support of each other, knowledge sharing, and ultimately increased collaboration and productivity. The IPPC Secretariate continued to engage FAO in workforce planning activities designed to ensure long-term stability and minimize turnover of staff members.

[29] The IPPC Secretariat acknowledges with deep appreciation members of the CPM Bureau, the SC and the IC, for their valuable guidance and oversight; all contracting parties (NPPOs) and the regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) for their strong support and positive contributions, including SPG participants; and all partners and collaborators for their close cooperation.

Recommendations

[30] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the report presented by the IPPC Secretariat.